DETROIT'S REFORM MAYOR

AN INTERESTING FIGURE IN MICHIGAN POLITICS.

MANAGING PUBLIC AFFAIRS JUST AS HE CON-DUCTED HIS PRIVATE BUSINESS.

NEITHER STATESMAN NOR POLITICIAN, BUT HE IS DOING GREAT THINGS FOR THE CITY -SMASHING THE RINGS OF BOTH PARTIES AND COMPELLING GREAT CORPORA-TIONS TO RESPECT THE LAW-FRAN-CHISES WORTH MILLIONS RECOV-ERED DESPITE THE OPPOSITION OF CORRUPT ALDERMEN-A BUSINESS MAN AND A PRACTICAL REFORMER.

Detroit, July 20 .- If a stranger were to ask the first ten citizens that he met in Michigan-ave. to mention the most interesting man in this State's politics the answers would probably surprise him. Nine out of the ten, and possibly the tenth also, would not refer to the leaders of either political party whose names have become familiar to people beyond the borders of the lake region. They might speak admiringly of the genial president of the World's Fair Commission, or of the wealthy and powerful United States Senators, or of the gallant general whom the Grand Army of the Repub-



H. S. PINGREE

He and Republicans generally delight to honor, or novice in the arts by which practical politicians are supposed to realize their ambitions.

Undoubtedly Mr. Fingree is the man of the hour. One does not need to be here long to find that out. His name is in your ear constantly. Everybody, apparently, has something to say about him, and a casual audition of this general discussion, when it is not participated in by the representatives of the powerful corporations with whom the Mayor is or has been at war, will suggest what Halleck wrote so feelingly of poor Drake—pone name him. In other words, there is nothing of the air of the professional reformer about him. He wrote so feelingly of poor Drake—pone name him. wrote so feelingly of poor Drake-none name him is but to praise. The car driver's face kindles as he tells how the Mayor's wise counsel caused a happy settlement of the street railroad riots and reduced the hours of labor within reasonable limits. The

language that is frequently more emphatic thanrefined, declare that "Pingree has more 'sand' than a dozen Grover Clevelands." "Why." said one of them, an exceptionally bright believer in Don Dickinson's Democracy, "Cleveland, while Mayor of Buffalo, vetoed one measure and it made Governor, and that led to the Presidency, but Pingree vetoes one of ten times its importance almost every month. Not only this, he has licked the whole Common Council into subjection and actually compelled them to assist him in beating out on the platform of trust against anti-trust. its masters, the biggest and strongest corporations unmolestedly for years. I'm a Democrat and always will be, but put me down for our Mayor of life, will have to go to the wall. Self-preservaevery time. He has smashed the Democratic ring, and I'm betting that he will smash the Republican ring before he gets through with it. Popular? you call it, nor by how long standing it may be. Well, I should say he was. A man who can successfully defy both party machines must be pretty solid, and that is what Pingree has done.

It would be difficult, after hearing this kind of talk for any length of time, to resist the inclination to learn something more definite of the mon who The Mayor's offices are on the ground or of the City Hall, a rather attractive, though smoke-begrimed structure, which stands in the heart of the city, guarded by cannons commemorative of Perry's great victory on Lake Erie, and enjoys the peculiar distinction of having been crected at a cost inside the appropriation made for it. Nearly \$100,000 of the money set apart for the work was returned to the city. But that happened many years ago, in the golden age, when all were for the State, and even Tammany Hall leaders did not become millionaires in a twelvemonth. Public work is not carried on here now that way any more than it is in New-York, though Mayor Pingree is certainly doing his part in paving the way for a return of "those brave days of old." Three rooms are set apart for him. The outer apartment is occupied by a stenographer and messenger. The largest room is supposed to be given up to the public. The smaller room on the right for the Mayor's special use. But you are just as likely to find him in one room as another, or in the hallway, talking to wheever happens to intercept him. There is no formality about the place or about him. There is no one on guard, no one to prevent any caller, no matter how humble, from wandering right into where the Mavor is at work unless indeed there is a meeting of the heads of departments or some special conference.

WORKS UNTIL MIDNIGHT WHEN REQUIRED. "What is the best time to see the Mayor?" I aked a gentleman just before going to the City

He smiled, as he replied, "Any time." What are his hours?"

"He has none." "Well, when does he come and when does

Oh, he comes down any time from 9 o'clock in the morning until noon, and goes home any time from 6 o'clock until midnight. You'll always find him at the City Hall unless he happens to be called to his factory. Yes, those are pretty leng hours, but you know we pay him a big salary. How much? Why, a thousand dollars He earns it, we admit, and we are going raise his pay. In fact we have already de aided to do so.

accordance with the facts. The Mayor reless than the ordinary bank clerk, and he gives to his private sceretary. He comes goes from the City Hall just as he has been

coming and going from his shoe factory for over twenty-five years. The same methods that he adopted to make his business one yielding him an income of \$50,000 a year, the same untiring industry, the same devotion and enterprise, he

employs now in the service of the public. It was not necessary to inquire if the Mayor was in or not; that can be found out instantly by personal inspection. He was out. He had been called to the factory. His secretary and right hand man, Alexander McLeod, an old newspaper man and a remarkable character in his way, said that I would not have to wait long. It was and interesting place in which to pass an hour. The walls were covered with portraits of men whom Michigan people hold in grateful remembrance. The stern, clear-cut expression of that prince of political strategists, Zachariah Chandler, whom Mr. Plaine declared to be "the most resolute and competent of men," attracts the attention immediately. He began his public career as Mayor of Detroit away back in 1851. A lifesize picture of General Coss, who, according to Mr. Greeley, was the first to give clear enunciation to the doctrine of "Popular," otherwise Squatter Sovereignty," hangs near Chandler's. Cass was appointed Territorial Governor of Michigan in 1814, and after serving under Jackson as Secretary of War, and representing the United States at the French Court, was chosen in 1844 United States Senator by the Michigan Legislature. The same honor was conferred upon him some years later, after his defeat for the Presidency by General Taylor. This portrait was painted, I think, while he was in Buchanan's Cabinet.

MILITARY IN HIS APPEARANCE. As I was about to look at another portrait, that of the great geologist to whom the Peninsular Territory owes so much, a stalwart specimen of the race entered. It was the Mayor. He is nearly six feet in height. His frame is tlagge, well-proportioned, and covered with generous supply of adispose tissue. His weight cannot be much less that 225 pounds, but he carries it easily. His military training is reflected in his movements and bearing. When he stands upright his back is as straight as a rifle barrel. His head is shapely, indicating mental vigor, sound judgment, and a large amount of practical sense and ability. His face is attractive. All the features are strongly marked, particularly the lower jaw. A heavy mustache and imperial emphasize his martial appearance. His eyes are blue, sky blue, and look at you squarely and steadily. Usually they twinkle with good nature, but now and then when he the mighty Don Dickinson, gatekeeper of grows earnest, or something is said or done that the Administration patronage pastures here, but rouses his New-England blood-for he is of Purithey would confess that none of these favorite sons tan stock-these smiling orbs become as hard in occupy such a conspicuous place in the public eye | their expression as those of the traditional Pilpresent as Hazen S. Pingree, Mayor of Detroit, grim Fathers. His directness and simplicity of There is no ittle what he shoemaker by trade, a tyro in statecraft and a syice in the arts by which practical politicians be supposed to realize their ambitions.

Undoubtedly Mr. Fingree is the man of the hour.

In the arts by which practical politicians at the does not be contrary, he seems to enjoy most heartily the success that has attended his efforts, and the way in which his administration

air of the professional reformer about him. He is a plain, unpretentious business man in office, nothing more and nothing less. Apparently the first thought that enters his mind when an abuse is brought to his attention is how to remedy it in the quickest and most effective manner possible. What was said of Grant might be said of him: "His genius is that of accomplishment."

This was the general impression formed from the first few minutes' conversation; it decemend in settlement of the street railroad riots and reduced the hours of labor within reasonable limits. The small taxpayer explains, with marked satisfaction, how some of the big corporations have at last been compelled to bear their part of the city's expenses. The progressive citizen points to the new aystem of payements and the new lines of electric cars as a partial rosult of the Mayor's unflagging zeal.

The merchant and mechanic, the hodearrier and drygoods clerk, regardless of political lines, unite in praise of the man who has crossed swords with such powerful adversaries as the attent about his more in praise of the man who has crossed swords with such powerful adversaries as the attent about his mysel out of swering smallers and their two far, recovering franchises worth, the gas and electric light companies, the steambara lines and the car works, and beaten them in every measurement of the correct these and it fell to my lot to undersation the same reduced to the same and the car works, and beaten them in every measurement and the two far, recovering franchises worth.

Even the most conservative element of the community, while gently deploring at times the Mayor's unflagance and compelling these powers to recognize the rights of the people in a manner unheard of heretofore.

MORE COUNTAGEOUS THAN CLEYELAND.

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Even the most conservative element of the community, while gently deploring at times the Mayor's unflagance there is a position to do many thing it be said of time. When these gentlemen were of the intent of the proporation is the discovered fluence of the stable when period of the period of though," and here the strong face became sober for an instant, "there is some satisfaction in helping, even in a modest way, the cause of human

HOW HE WOULD SMASH THE TRUSTS

Something was said on the subject of trusts. I'm no political economist, he remarked, "nor do I pretend to be a statesman. I'm simply a shoemaker, an every-day business man, but I have no hesitation in saying that, in my opinion, the next Presidential campaign will be fought And any party which does not come out squarely against trusts in any form, which, by combining together, seek to gut up the price of the necessaries tion is the first law of Nature, and it comes in The Republican party has always been the party The Republican party has always been the party of Protection; but trusts are driving people to Free Trade to protect themselves. It is either this alternative or the passage by the various States or by United States laws recently passed, similar to the one in Illinois, which makes it illegal for any trust to do business in that State. One trust about which I know something and about twathen many other shoe manufacturers know a good deal is the shoe leather trust—a combination of \$136,000,000 of capital, and embracing about twa-thirds of all the business in the United States, including all of the largest. They calculate to limit the production of sole leather and control the price, regardless of the price of hides. Hides were never so cheap before in the remembrance of the oldest manufacturer or producer. The price of hides has been reduced over 50 per cent in the last year. They are so cheap that it is lardly worth the while of butchers to save the hide when killing cattle. A cent a pound off on hides means 2 cents a pound off on sole leather. This ought to make a very material reduction in the price of sole leather, and make cheaper footwear for every person in the United States. But what is the fact? The price of sole leather remains substantially the same. And look at the farmer selling his wheat so that first-class flour is sold to the consumer at \$3 a barrel. Will be pay trust *prices and vote for a party that upheld there? I say no.

"Right in the face and eyes of the greatest financial depression this country has experienced for twenty years, the Coal Trust has put up the price of coal 5 per cent. A local boot and shoe dealer told me the other day that he couldn't buy a rubber unless he signed a document that he would sell those goeds at whatever retail price they put eather told me the other day that he couldn't buy a rubber unless he signed a document that he would sell those goeds at whatever retail price they put eather told me the other day that he couldn't buy a rubber shoe which last year he sold of Protection; but trusts are driving people to Free Trade to protect themselves. It is either this

tis puritan lineage.

Before reviewing the Mayor's public career, a few words of a biographical character will be in order. As already stated he is of New-England lineage. He traces a direct descent from Moses Pingry, who came from the mother country just twenty years after the Mayflower grated upon the beach at Plymouth. Moses Pingry settled at pswich, Mass, and became the honored forms in a legitimate firm in 1883, but the firm name, Pingree & Smith, has been retained. Mr. Pingree's brother and Mr. Howarth now, with the Mayor, constitute the firm. In 1872 Mr. Hingree mirried Miss Prances A. Gilbert, of Mt. Clemens. They have three children, two daughters and a son. The femily occupy an attractive dwelling house in Woodward-ave.

Throughout his business life the Mayor had principles, but he never took any active part in the party politics, except to contribute generously to the Republican local, State and National few words of a biographical character will be in order. As already stated he is of New-England lineage. Pingry, who came from the mother country just twenty years after the Mayflower grated upon the beach at Plymouth. Moses Pingry settled at Ipswich, Mass., and became the honored

head of a long line of descendants. For nearly 140 years the American branch of the family lived in Ipswich and the neighboring towns of Rawley and Georgetown. It was a healthy, hardy stock and multiplied rapidly. Toward the latter part of the eighteenth century they had so increased that many of them were prompted to seek new homes where they might find room for the expansion of their innate energy and enter-prise. In a comparatively short time Pingrys were to be found in remote positions of the 45-4 Lay State, in Maine, New-Hampshire, Vermont and Ray State, in Maine, New-Hampshire, Vermont and Nova Scotia. Members of the family can low be found in all parts of the Union. The Mayor comes of a branch that migrated northward. Howas born in Denmark, Maine, on August 30, 1842. He was the fourth son, it is rather was a farmer. The active outdoor life developed a healthy physique. At the age of fourteen he left his home to seek his fortune in the world. He wont to Hopkinsville, Massachusetts, where he ecured employment in a shoe factory. He chose the trade of cutter, and it is related that he was unusually skilful in the business. Young and ambitious, he industriously pegged away in the factory until the war storm swent over the linit Just after the first battle of Bull Run, President Lincoln issued his second call for troops, the Lincoln issued his second call for troops, the mota of Hopkinsville was forty-seven men. The drums beat the bands played, and the fercer and excitement of the times were increased by public meetings at which notable speakers called upon the men to rally round the flag. It is the first the men train, and everybody seemed waiting for some one to lead off. Pingree was then employed at a dollar and nine-pence a day cutting sole leather. Fired with patriotism, he persuaded his shopmate, Edward H. Barker, now of Milwaukee, to accompany him. They laid away their wankee, to accompany him. They lai tools and went to the public meeting.

ENLISTS AS A SOLDIER. enrolled his name as a recruit for the 1st Massachusetts Heavy Artillery, being the first to enzen tried to buy out Pingree's privilege as a recruit, a matter that could have been arranged, as the town's quota had not yet been mustered into the service. This particular citizen offered 856 cash, with a promise to make it 855 as soon as he could sell his house and lot. Pingree-he was then but eighteen-declined the pecuniary indusement, saying: "No. I won't sell my chance; who wouldn't give a farm to be a soldier." The remark was overheard and was constantly repeated. Such was the origin of the sentiment, "Who wouldn't give a farm to be a soldier," that spread through the army and became one of the popular expressions of the day.

On August I, 1862, he was mustered into Company F of the 1st Massachusetts Regiment of heavy artillery as a private. He was in the second battle of Bull Run, and saw blood flow freely during the rest of the war, taking part in the battles of Ergelegistalizes Regiment of battles of Ergelegistalizes Regiment of parties of the day. zen tried to buy out Pingree's privilege as a re-eruit, a matter that could have been arranged, as

during the rest of the war, taking part in the battles of Fredericksburg Road, Harris Farm and Spottsylvania Court House, Co'a Harbor, North Anna and South Anna. At the battle of Spottsyl-Spottsylvenia Court House, Cold Harris Farm and Anna and South Anna. At the lattle of Spottsyl-vania the 1st Massachusets was conspicuous, opening the engagement and losing 500 men in killed and wounded.

CAPTURED BY MOSBY

On May 25, 1864, he was taken prisoner Mosby. As was the usual custom of the guerilla chieftain the prisoners were paraded for his inspection. Mosby was particularly struck with Pingree. As he looked the detachment over he singled out the stalwart young private, who was then about of Mosby's weight and build, and said: "What rank are you-a brigadier-general?" 'No," answered Pingree: "I am a private."

"You wear good clothes," said Mosby; "take

Randolph sts. After a few months they moved to the Hawley Block on the corner of Woodbridge and Bates sts. For the first few years their shoe factory was a very modest concern, but both members of the firm were shrewd business men, and they enlarged the plant as rapidly as their trafe they enlarged the plant as rapidly as their trade denanded. For the first year only eight persons were employed, Much of the actual labor was performed by Mr. Pingree and his partner. In 1868 the firm was compelled to seek larger quarters in the Parnswerth Block on Woodbridgest. Three years more brought a still greater increase to the business, and in 1871 the factory was removed to the southwest corner of Woodbridge and Griswold sis, using at first but one-half of the building. The pluck, energy and extraordinary business ability of Mr. Pingree were manifested early in the firm's life. The business has steadily increased from the first. At present over 700 persons are employed, and the weekly payroll amounts to between \$5,000 and \$6,000.

SUCCESSFUL IN BUSINESS

During the first year the total product of the firm was only \$20,000. In 1891 it amounted to over \$1,600,000, and the future promises still greater results. The factory has maintained its position for years as the most extensive boot and shoe manufactory in the West. From the beginning of the enterprise Mr. Pingree has had general supervision over the complicated details of the entire establishment. Mr. Smith retired from the firm in 1883, but the firm name, Pingree & Smith,

campaigns. He was known to be in sympathy with all progressive movements, but had not been with all progressive movements, but had not been more outspoken than a hundred other good citi-zens. He was known chiefly as a successful business man, and one too deeply immersed in the acquisition of wealth to give attention to any-thing else. His nomination was quite unexpected. It was a surprise to him, and it was a surprise to almost every one cise. It happened in this

to almost every one cise. It happened in this way:

Detroit has for a dezen years or more been slowly following in the wake of all leading American cities. It had gradually possed into the hands of a corrupt lot of politicians of both parties bent on their own enrichment and utterly regardless of the true interests of the city. Franchises of the most valuable character had been given away with all the reckless frection and under all the suspicious circumstances that characterize their dispessition in New-York, Brooklyn and elsewhere. The great corporations were practically in control of everything, and had forgotten, apparently, that they were under any obligations whatever to the people. There was, for example, a vehement demand for rapid trunsit, but the only answer that the street car rullroads would give was their antiquated horse car lines. The electric light service was unsatisfactory, and the rates for gas were far higher than in other cities on the lakes. There was a wholesale evasion of tavation on the part of namerous large corporations. The street pavements were in a frightful condition, and the city was in a bud way generally. Things had been going from bad to worse until the fall of 1889, when a genuine citizens' movement was started, representing the protest of the best element against the municipal misrule.

DEFEATS THE RING CANDIDATE.

A Democratic Mayor, Major John Pridgeon, jr. held office. His party determined to renominate him, manifesting a disposition to utterly disregard Charles Claffin, father of Governor Claffin, who the reform demonstrations. This of course placed later on was elected Governor of Massachusetts, upon the Republicans the responsibility of pro-Mr. Pingree at once went forward and vising a reform candidate. A meeting of some of the leading men of the party was held one even-ing, including D. M. Ferry, Joseph F. Joy, H. M. list in the town. His friend Barker was the see- Duffield, General Alger, James L. Edison, W. H. ond man. The quota of forty-seven men was made | Elliott and others equally well known. Mr. Pinond man. The quota of forty-seven men was made up after a few more meetings, and the company started for the rendezvous at Boston. Henry Stowg, a son of Harriet Beecher Stowe, was their lieutenaut. As they paraded the streets the burst of patriotic feeling was intensified. A citizen tried to buy out Pingree's privilege as a restrict. The others, however, were persistent.

majority under ordinary eigenmetances. Pingree's candidacy, however, represented a revolt of reputable citizens against the ring, and a large element of the Democracy supported him. He beat I ridgeon by a majority of 2,31s. He entered upon his official work with characteristic vizor, and before the close of his term he had made such a record that some of those who put him forward at first, and these included a number of wealthy members of his own party, had become exceedingly weary of it, and would have viewed his permanent retirement from politics with undiscussed satisfaction. As Mayor he was entirely too independent in his official acts to suit them; he played the role of the reformer too seriously. Their ideas of reform were purely conventional, that is, a lot of fine talk, high-sounding promises, general denunciation, but no positive—much less aggressive—stand against the existing evils, when the assumption of such a of reputable citizens against the ring, and a large existing evils, when the assumption of such a position might in any way interfere with interests corporations with which these gentlemen were onneated. Reform with them really meant medy, farce-comedy, too; Pingree's conception

foot that the Mayor was right. But whether sustained or unsustained by the press, he goes right ahead. So far as his course as a public official could indicate, he is without fear. More than that, he is without favor for any one, friend or foe, if he thinks that favor will conflict with the interests of the nunneigality. Herein lies the secret of his success. People believe that he is honest, that he is fearless that he is devoted to their service, that he trusts them and them alone to sustain him, that he will allow no appeal to his ambition or to his partisanship to sway him, that he has antagonized lifelong friends by his course, and that some of the most potent forces in his own party and in the commercial world here are arrayed against him in consequence of his indefatigable labors to reform the abuses from which Detroit has suffered.

HIS CHURCH PEW TAKEN AWAY.

Some of the penalties that he has incurred are rather amusing to an outsider and would seem almost incredible. He has been a pew-holder in the Woodward Avenue Baptist Church for many years. I believe he helped to build it. The pews, it appears, are auctioned off annually. The Mayor's family had sat in one particular pew for so long that they had come to look upon it as private property. Their surprise can scarcely be imagined when they were informed that some one else had possession of it. The auction sale, it appears, had

when they were informed that some one cise had possession of it. The auction sale, it appears, had taken place while Mr. Pingree was absent on business, and some of his political enemies in the church thought it would be a good way to show their resentment of his public course in dealing with certain corporations in which they were interested by selling the seat to somehody else. They had previously indulged in social estracism, and this represented an effort to supplement it by banishing him from the religious altars.

Shortly after his first conflict with the corporations information was conveyed to him from time to time that a continuation in his course of antagonism to these corporations might not be conducive to his business welfare. It was hinted that the money market might be closed against him, and similar bints were given to men who had stood by him. He paid little attention to the threatened beycott, and was disposed to think that there was nothing in it until one day last January he received a letter from Vice-President F. W. Hayes, of the Preston Eark, of which he was a director, and in which he held \$25,000 worth of stock, that he was no longer wanted as an official of the institution. The reason for making this request, Mr. Hayes did not hesitate to state. The Mayer had taken a position "antagonistic to corporate capital," placing the back in "an embarrassing position with other financial corporations in the city and State." As might easily be seen, the letter proved a trump card for the Mayor, who replied to it in a dignimight easily be seen, the letter proved a trump excess card for the Mayor, who replied to it in a digni- year.

fied tone, simply saying that whatever he had said or done in regard to corporations since he became a public official had been in fufilment of the obligations he had assumed as Mayor of the city, and expressing complete satisfaction with the action of the bank in his case. This bank, by the wey, is supposed to be controlled by Senator McMillan, and Senator McMillan is deeply interested in the street purposes which the Mayor had been fighting so vigorously. The story of terested in the street restrones which the Mayor had been fighting so vigorously. The story of this contest is not without reatures of general interest.

this contest is not without reatures of interest.

It may be said to have begun at the time of the strike on the part of the employes in the spring of 1891. At that time the men complained of the long hours they had to work. A bill was introduced in the Legislature limiting their time of work to ten hours a day, and providing that they should not be required to work more than six days in seven. The company fought this measure, and undertook to discharge employes who were particularly active in assisting in its passage. This company, by the way, was another name for the Messrs. Hendric, the well-known Canadian capitalists who have been practically the entire owners of the city railroads for over thirty years. thirty years.

IN THE ROLE OF A PEACEMAKER.

The drivers and conductors resented the discharge of their fellow employes, and a general strike ensued-a strike that had not only the approval of all the bodies of organized labor in the city, but the sympathy of citizens generally. The City Railway Company had been unpopular for years, in consequence of their re-fusal to comply with the demands for a better service, and also because of their tyrannical methods toward those in their employ. The police, however, were controlled by the corporations, and they made a desperate effort to run the tions, and they made a desperate effort to run the cars. The strikers were reinforced by the out-side public, who chearfully agreed to walk to assist the men. The police failed utterly to break the strike, and the Mayor was requested to call out the militia. The attorney of one corporation thought he had to turn the fire hose on the strikers.

Strikers.

Up to that time Mr. Pingree was little known to the outside public. He was still an experiment as a public official. All the influence of the corporations was brought to bear upon him. He issued a proclamation warning the floters and quoting the law for the suppression of riots and disorderly assemblages. At the same time he addressed a letter to the railway company urging that the differences between the company and its employes be submitted to arbitration. The effect of the letter was magical, and relieved the city from a terrific strain. Cool-headed men knew that if the Mayer had called out the militia a bloody riot would have ensued, for the men were determined, and public sentiment was with them. The results would have been most deplorable. The company realized the danger, and they were as giad to arbitrate as the men. The proposition was occerted and acted upon at once. Cars were started on all of the lines, and the men went to work pending the result of the arbitration, which preved entirely satisfactory to them. The Mayor was incorporated of the hour. Up to that time Mr. Pingree was little known

of the hour.

The City Railway Company was incorporated in 1862. It was given a most valuable thirty-The City Railway Company was incorporated in 1862. It was given a most valuable thirty-year franchise. In 1879, without any concession to the public, it secured an extension of its franchise, so as to make its life thirty years from that date. Considerable stir was caused at the time, but the ordinance of 1879 slid through the Common Council as easily as Jacob Shara's Bradway Railread charter was passed by the New-York Aldermen. In 1880 the company obtained further valuable privileges in the way of permission to by tracks over several miles of new streets so as to shut out other companies from competition with it. In causi leration of this valuable trivilege, with hundreds of thousands of ioliars, the city received not one cent in the way of additional revenue. On the same day that this tion with it. In consideration of the crivileze, with hundreds of thousands of dolinars, the city received not one cent in the way of additional revenue. On the same day that this ordinance was approved a similar ordinance was approved for the Fort Wayne and Elmwood Company and also the Grand River Company, giving them some important track extensions. These companies were also granted the privilege of using electricity in place of animal power, and the City Company was granted the right to use cable power on Woodward-ave. On the heels of this came a demand for an extension of the franchise for thirty years more, that is, from 1892, when the original franchise expired. The matter remained in the Committee on Street and Ordinances until June 23 when that body reported in favor of cranting these criticaless. There was not a word in any of them about reducing from about extending the transfer system of tickets or about any payment to the city by increased taxation or otherwise for the princely donation of privileges that was conferred. The vote on their final passage was 23 to 6. of privileges that was conferred, their final passage was 23 to 6.

Such an outrageous bestowal of franchises worth millions, such a surrender to one monopoly of many miles of streets, roused the public to the highest pitch. A public meeting was called at the Detroit Kink, and it gave occasion for the Representative citizens of both partie, denounced the steal, and the stronger their language the were adopted protesting against the action of the

will probably be effected, but if it is there is every reason to believe that the city, and not the railroad companies, will dictate the terms of it. The Mayor's next struggle was with the gas companies. The original gas company had or-ganized in 1851 under the laws of the State and given the exclusive rights to do business with the city for ten years. At the expiration of that period the contract was renewed for five years, but without the exclusive feature that characterized the original ordinance. In 1871 the rates for gas bad become so exorbitant that a rival cencern, the Mutual Gas Company, organized by Thompson, Dean and others, of New-York, entered the field. concern, the Matual Gas Company, or and the concern, the Matual Gas Company, or an and others, of New-York, entered the field. The corporation was granted a franchise on condition that it should not consolidate with any other company, and that its charges should not be above the average price charges should not be above the average price. solitate with any other company, and that the charges should not be above the average price paid by the five lake cities—Chicago, Toledo, Cleveland, Sandusky and Buffalo.

THE WAR WITH THE GAS TRUST

With the growth of corporate power and the gradual cessation of vigilance on the part of those charged with the city's interests, both these conditions became a dead letter. First, the gas companies divided up the city between them with Woodward-ave, for the dividing line. This, as will be readily seen, amounted practically to a consolidation. There was no valid reason why gas in Detroit should not be furnished as cheaply as in any other lake city, but it wasn't, for every consumer was obliged to pay about two prices—\$1 25 net and \$1 75 if the consumer was a day or so behindhand, with various extra charges for meters, etc., and 25 cents extra if less than 1,000 feet were used in the month. Vigorous protests led the Mayor to investigate the matter. He first sent a trusted agent to each of the lake cities mentioned, and ascertained that the average price paid in those places was \$1 06 a thousand. Armed with this fact he at once charged the Mutual Gas Company with having violated one of the conditions upon which its franchise was granted, and began suit, as a citizen, to recover all the money that he had paid for gas used in his household in excess of what the charge should have been each year. This sum, in his case, amounted to about as in any other lake city, but it wasn't, for every

reason to believe that he will recover it, and it does, why the gates are down for similar ceedings on the part of every other consumer, that the company is in danger of losing not only its franchise, but a large amount of cash.

But the crusade did not each here. The gate companies, including the Natural Gas Company, which is generally understood to represent the Standard Cil people, combined for their own protection, forming a trust, or what is known as the Detroit Gas Company, and listed four millions of the capital stock and two millions of the consolidated first morigage 5 per cent twenty-five-year gold bonds on the New-York Stock Exchange. In a financial paper amouncing this consolidation is was stated that the net carnings for the preceding year of the Detroit Gaskight Company had been \$113,290.59; that of the Mutual Gas Company, \$161,337.93; and that of the Michigan Gas Company, \$161,337.93; and that of the Michigan Gas Company, \$168,376.71, a total of \$385,005.23. The officers of the new company were William C. Mo-Millan, president: Frank E. Byrne, vice-president; John Byrne, of No. 54 Wall-st. New-York, teasurer, and John C. Donnelly, secretary. The announcement of this consolidation was promptly seized upon by the Mayor as evilence of another violation of the original agreement between the city and the Mutual Gas Company. Protessor Kent was employed to examine the law on the question by the Mayor, and he reported that the city was in a position to refuse to allow this new concern to lay pipes unless it obtained a new franchise from the city. In other words, that the city was in a position to refuse to allow this new concern to lay pipes unless it obtained a new franchise from the city. In other words, that the franchise granted to the individual companies cannot be transmitted to the consolidated concern.

\$300. The case is now in court. He ha

TAKING THE LAW IN HIS OWN HANDS. The trust, of course, took a different view and proceeded to lay pipe, or rather, connect the pipes of the old Detroit Gaslight Company and the Mutual Gaslight Company. The Mayor tried to get out an injunction restraining them, but Judge Reilly refused to grant it. Instead of quietly sitting down under this ruling of the Court, the Mayor, fortified by the advice of the City Counsel. determined to prevent the proposed action of the gas companies, regardless of the Court's failure to gas companies, regardless of the Court's failure to assist him. On the 14th of last month a gang of laborers was sent by the Gas Trust to tear up the streets to connect the mains. As soon as they appeared on the ground the Mayor ordered the Board of Fublic Works to forbid any work of the kind being done, and telephoned the police to support the Foard of Fublic Works to any extent nees, sary. His orders were obeyed. The laborers had no sooner beaun to lift the paving blocks than the police were on them and marched them off to the station house.

The gas companies attorneys protested violently, but the gas mains still remain unconnected, and now the trust is talking about compromise. The Mayor met them promptly on this ground, as he desirons of driving any one out of business, but

has the street rairroads, descring that he was not desirous of driving any one out of business, but, on the contrary, he was anxious to have the cor-porations that had been doing business continue to do so if they would only regard the interests of the city. As indicating his feeling on this point extract from his message to the Co

Now that your honorable body has taken decisive action in repealing ordinances which have been violated in spirit and in letter, and in revok-ing a consent which expired in 1866, the question arises. What is the sensible and businesslike in thad to pursue in adjusting this important mat-ter in the interests of the whole people? The ter in the interests of the whole people? The Detroit Gas Company has bought two manufacturing plants and a large amount of pipe in the streets, and is therefore in a better position to give satisfactory service to the public, if it so desires, than any new company, which would have to tear up our good payments to lay new pipes, would be. Therefore why would it not be wise for your honorable body to pass an or immee giving the Detroit Gas Company the right to lay its pipes in the streets, under such conditions as will fully protect consumers from extortion and the public from inconvenience in the tearing up of streets, etc., and provide therein that the ordinance shall have no force unless accepted by the company within a certain time? The idea that the gas company must be conferred with before an company within a certain time? The idea that the gas company must be conferred with before an ordinance on the subject is adopted by your honorable body is preposterous. The company will never show its hand and make public how much of a concession it will give to the city until the city submits a proposition by which it will be legally bound. If the company will not accept uch an ordinance, fixing reasonable rates for the upper of gas and censenable provisions for the prefection of consumes and the public, then an ordinance estould be granted to the new company. neh an ordinance, Eximit reason the provisions for the apply of gest and remains he is public, then an ordinance should be granted to the new company, ordinance should be granted to the new company, or to some whose petition is mentioned above, or to some other company, authorizing it to lay pipes and supply gas under the conditions as to rates which are therein specified."

SENSATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS. The fight with the electric company was even

more sensational. The Detroit Electric Light and

Power Company had the exclusive field here, but its price has been high and service exceedingly unsatisfactory. Its contract expired July 1. most stirring expressions of popular sentiment, year or two ago the Michigan Legislature passed a law enabling towns to own lighting plants, but were adopted protesting against the action of the Aldermen, and a committee of fifty citizens was contract, went to the last Legislature and after which a bine cut of I might be slet for any and wouldn't do reach a limit of wouldn't do reach a limit of the last resident it from Democrated these farts, and the strength of the strength o appointed to present this protest to the Mayor. In heard struggle succeeded in getting the limitattle doubt was entertained that the Mayor taking represent A bitter field, followed in the limitations represent the property of the limitations represents the limitation of the limitat

dence against him was not sufficient in the opinion of the court to secure his conviction, but

dence against him was not sufficient in the opinion of the court to secure his conviction, but it was sufficient for the Mayor's purposes. The appointment of a lighting commission followed, and it is expected that bids will be called for within a few weeks for the plant, that is to cost about \$600,000 and to be operated by the city. In accepting office at first Mr. Pingree maie some remarks that his admirers are fond of repeating. One was: "Let us insist that no railroad or other corporate property shall escape its just burden of local taxation." In giving effect to this declaration the Mayor has caused consternation in certain quarters. The big car works, for example, were assessed on \$200,000 worth of property. Recently the two concerns were merged into one capitalization of \$8,000,000, and this stock is now being sold. The Mayor at once called attention to this, and arged the assessoft to do their duty. He thought the corporation should pay taxes on at least half its capitalization, or \$4,000,000 or \$5,000,000. His suggestion raised a wail of protest. The car works people threatened to move away from Detroit. The threat was repeated to the Mayor. It failed to frighten him. "You couldn't drive them away with a shotgun," was his laconic reply. Taxes are now paid by this corporation on \$2,000,000 instead of \$200,000.

Another case was that of the steamboat lines of the city that kept an office elsewhere, at which yearly meetings were held, in order to escape local taxes. The Mayor held that this was an evasion of the statute which would not be tolerated la equity or in law. He set about correcting it, and was as successful as usual.

Still another case was that of the city's funds. For years they had been kept in a certain bank friendly to a great corporation. It paid 3 1-2 per cent on about \$1,500,000, for there was usually that amount on deposit. The Mayor insisted at letting this zo to the highest responsible bidder. These illustrations might be supplemented by others, but surely enough has been said to cony